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and issued as a picture and a sound. The D-VHS 100 records the signal issued from the STB 400 in its internal VCR 110.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1 through 22 with the following amended claims:

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CONT'D
- 1 1. (Amended) A device control method in a system comprising
 - 2 a) a unit connected to a bus including at least one of an input plug for signal
 - 3 input and an output plug for providing a source of signal output, and
 - 4 b) a subunit having at least one of a destination plug for inputting a signal and a
 - 5 source plug for signal output to the bus, said method comprising the steps of:
 - 6 a) signaling the unit connected to the bus or to the subunit included in the unit to
 - 7 detect the input plug or the source plug as the source of signal; and
 - 8 b) receiving the result of detection provided by the unit or the subunit receiving
 - 9 the signal.
 - 1 2. (Amended) A device control method in a system comprising a unit
 - 2 connected to a bus including an output plug for signal output to a bus, said method
 - 3 comprising the steps of:
 - 4 a) signaling the unit connected to the bus to detect an input plug or a source
 - 5 plug as a signal source of a designated output plug; and
 - 6 b) receiving the result of detection provided by the unit receiving the signal.
 - 1 3. (Amended) A device control method in a system comprising
 - 2 a) a unit having an input plug for signal input and
 - 3 b) an output plug providing virtual signal output to a bus, said method
 - 4 comprising the steps of:
 - 5 a) detecting a virtual signal in a channel of the bus; and
 - 6 b) receiving information having the virtual signal output through the output plug
 - 7 in the channel from a first unit connected to the bus,

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CON 1 D wherein a relation between the first unit and a second unit is shown by the information in the virtual signal output.

1 4. (Amended) The device control method of claim 3, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 c) recognizing that the first unit is issuing a first signal;

4 d) using a third unit connected to the bus to determine if the second unit is
5 issuing a second signal; and

6 e) processing the first signal by the third unit while the second signal is being
7 issued.

1 5. (Amended) The device control method of claim 4,
2 wherein the first signal is received by at least one of the second unit and the
3 third unit.

1 6. (Amended) A device control method in a system comprising

2 a) a unit including at least one of an input plug for providing a source of signal
3 input and an output plug for providing a source of signal output, and

4 b) a subunit having at least one of a destination plug for providing a source of
5 signal input and a source plug for providing a source of signal output to a bus, said
6 method comprising at least one of the steps of:

7 a) requesting the output plug of the unit to designate the source plug of the
8 subunit as a signal source;

9 b) requesting the destination plug of the subunit to designate the input plug of
10 the unit as the signal source;

11 c) requesting the output plug of the unit to designate the input plug of the unit as
12 the signal source; and

13 d) requesting the destination plug of the subunit to designate the source plug of
14 the subunit as the signal source.

1 7. (Amended) A device control method in a system comprising a first unit and

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a second unit, each of said first and second units having

4 a) at least one of an input plug for providing a source of signal input and an
output plug for providing a source of signal output, and

5 b) a first subunit and a second subunit, each of said subunits having at least one
6 of a destination plug for signal input and a source plug for providing a source of signal
7 output to a bus, comprising:

8 at least one of the steps of

9 a) requesting the destination plug of the first subunit included in the first unit
10 to designate the input plug of the first unit as the source of signal, and

11 b) requesting the output plug of the first unit to designate the input plug of the
12 first unit as the source of signal; and

13 at least one of the steps of

14 c) requesting the output plug of the second unit to designate the source plug of
15 the second subunit included in the second unit as the source of signal, and

16 d) requesting the output plug of the second unit to designate the input plug of
17 the second unit as the source of signal; and

18 the step of

19 e) requesting the input plug of the first unit and the output plug of the second
20 unit to connect to each other, after at least one of the steps a) and b) and at least one of
21 the steps c) and d).

1 8. (Amended) The device control method of claim 1, further comprising the
2 step of:

3 c) determining whether or not a further subunit is present along a path from the
4 output plug or along a path from the source plug as the result of detection is provided
5 by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit.

1 9. (Amended) The device control method of claim 1, further comprising the
2 step of:

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CONT 5 c) determining whether or not a signal is processed along a path from the output plug or along a path from the source plug as the result of detection is provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit.

1 10. (Amended) The device control method of claim 9, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 d) determining whether or not the signal is a multiplexed signal having multiple
4 program contents, and

5 e) determining whether or not

6 1) there is a signal along the path from the output plug or along the path from
7 the source plug and

8 2) whether or not part of the multiplexed signal has been extracted along the
9 path from the output plug or along the path from the source plug

10 as the result of detection is provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination
11 plug of the subunit.

1 11. (Amended) The device control method of claim 9, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 d) determining that the signal includes video data, and

4 e) determining whether or not data is added to the video data of the signal along
5 the path from the output plug or along the path from the source plug to display contents
6 other than the video data of the signal as the result of detection is provided by the input
7 plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit.

1 12. (Amended) The device control method of claim 6, further comprising the
2 step of:

3 e) determining whether or not a further subunit is present along a path
4 connecting at least one of the plugs designated in at least one of the steps a) to d) as the
5 signal source.

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13. (Amended) The device control method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

3 e) determining whether or not the signal is processed along a path connecting at
4 least one of the plugs designated in at least one of the steps a) to d) as signal source.

1 14. (Amended) The device control method of claim 13, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 f) determining whether or not the signal along the path is a multiplexed signal
4 having multiple program contents, and

5 g) determining whether or not part of the multiple program contents is extracted
6 along the path when the signal is the multiplexed signal having multiple programs.

1 15. (Amended) The device control method of claim 13, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 f) determining whether or not the signal along the path includes video data; and

4 g) determining whether or not data is added to the video data to enable display
5 of the added data when the signal includes video data.

1 16. (Amended) A device control method in a system comprising

2 a) a unit including at least one of an input plug for providing a source of signal
3 input and an output plug for providing a source of signal output, and

4 b) a subunit having at least a destination plug for providing a source of signal
5 input and a source plug for providing a source of signal output to a bus, said method
6 comprising the steps of:

7 a) signaling at least one of the output plug of the unit and the destination plug of
8 the subunit to designate the source plug of the subunit as the signal source;

9 b) establishing a signal path between the source plug and at least one of the
10 output plug of the unit and the destination plug of the subunit; and

11 c) determining from at least one of the unit and the subunit whether or not the
12 signal from the source plug of the subunit is received by the destination plug of the

13 subunit.

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17. (Amended) The device control method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

e) determining from at least one of the unit and the subunit that a further signal has issued from at least one of the unit and the subunit after the signal source has been designated in accordance with at least one of the steps a) to d).

18. (Amended) A device control method in a system comprising a plurality of units including an input plug for signal input and an output plug for signal output to a bus, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a signal from a first unit to a second unit to request a point-to-point connection between the second unit and a third unit; and

b) establishing point-to-point connection between the second unit and the third unit in response to the signal.

19. (Amended) The device control method of claim 18, wherein the signal requesting the point-to-point connection includes information for specifying a unit as an object of the point-to-point connection.

20. (Amended) The device control method of claim 18, wherein the second unit establishes point-to-point connection with the first unit.

21. (Amended) The device control method of claim 18, wherein the signal requesting the point-to-point connection includes information specifying a plug as an object of the point-to-point connection.

22. (Amended) The device control method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:

c) determining whether or not the second unit previously established point-to-point connection with a unit other than the third unit designated by the signal, and if previously established,

1) terminates the previously established point-to-point connection between the